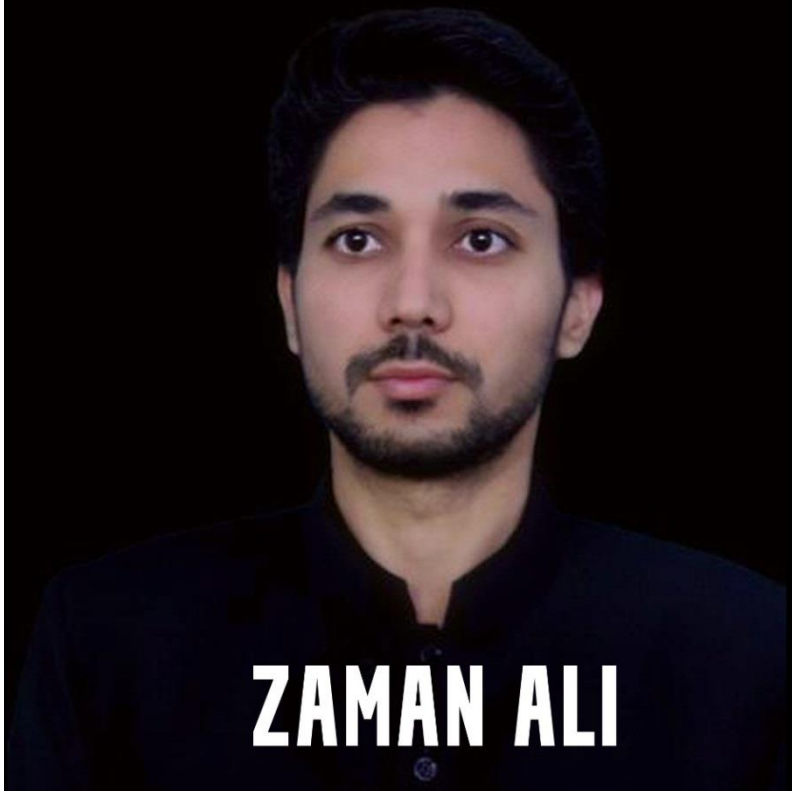
An Epistemological Choice

EVIDENCE

To Know and Have It All?



ZAMAN ALI

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To Know and Have It All?

Zaman Ali

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Introduction

Starting from my previous book, humanity, understanding reality and inquiring good, the basic idea of mine is based upon many assumptions, then looking at any other philosophical, religious, scientific theory, it's been easily observed, and even if proved or not there are assumptions in them. In science, claims about evidential knowledge and in many materialistic experiments their claims could be valid, but those claims seem skeptical if any experiment shows the slightest variation from the previous one. A variation to the minimum possible degree is enough to alter the objective or the ultimate true idea or proven experiment into particular results or subjectivity of the idea. As long as there is variation in any experiment which claims the validation through proof, it leads toward its individual understanding, and until now it's the reason for failed attempts to have an answer without some assumptions either at the start or at the end.

Now returning to the idea of human individuality and its subjectivity, after understanding, I concluded that humans' objective knowledge and objective social-political structures seem impossible, rather the common idea is humanity, which is inherent in each individual and society for its survival and living process. And I am still holding this idea, because no other idea seems more valid to me, as it is based upon certain reasoning, and denying it seems

almost difficult for me. As this whole understanding doesn't seem refutable and its reasoning is strong, at the same time the whole idea is based upon assumptions, and proving the individuality in the experiment leads toward many other fundamental questions related to metaphysics, physics, and epistemology. As humans are involved, these ideas need experimental proof of material aspects and others who disagree with material aspects have other reasons based upon many assumptions. Now, whether by assumptions or experiment, my idea is not proved or disproved; rather, certain reasons provide a sense of the entire process. For accepting and rejecting this or any idea, we have reasons and a logical understanding of its sense-making, and we make our social and political systems based upon that understanding. On the other side, science, with its similar results in repetition experiments, proves its authenticity and, because of repetitions, its results can be called the objectified truth. But with time, we find out that there is always some degree of variation in each experiment, and the seemingly similar outcomes of results are not the same. There is always the slightest variation in each experiment, those variations as little as undetectable, and now with advances in technology those variations are often detectable, even if any of that variation doesn't make any difference in many experimental results, the variation is there and this idea leads towards probability. And even if the probability of variation is very low or the probability of similar results is always high, still, the experimental results are not the same and that is enough to deny its objectivity. It may not matter in those experimental results, but it's an essential part when we are seeking the ultimate truth about a particular thing or everything.

Human-related ideas, or in the social or political process, this variation is the key toward its subjectivity and we could easily accept or deny this for our reasons, but in seeking the ultimate reality and the objective truth this variation is again the key to our failure in pursuing it. As I accept individuality and subjective human understanding with certain reasoning, still I lack the experimental evidence to justify it. Being a philosopher, it's the purpose to pursue authentic knowledge and now the question in mind is, with variations in experiments, can any knowledge be called authentic? It depends upon how we judge it or what the parameters of authentication are. In seeking information and in experiment repetition, higher probability results are enough to be called authenticated, and that's how the conclusion could be easily drawn about authentic knowledge. And especially with mathematical knowledge, the authentication is beyond probability and it's been called certain knowledge and the whole notion of science standing upon its verifications to confirm it as the ultimate method for seeking true knowledge. But after Gödel's theorem, it seems like maybe mathematics is not the answer to seeking all knowledge as there are problems whose solution is beyond it. Still, the hope is in mathematics because it's the better path forward to achieve the desired results compared to any other path. As mathematicians have the inherent ability to justify statements, while any other inquiry, analytical or logical reasoning doesn't justify to the level of mathematics. This comparison led to the choice, that for many people, if not for all, that mathematics and its higher ability toward justification of statements are the obvious choices for

seeking knowledge. But the problem lies in reaching the end theory or answer and when it cannot answer any or some particular statement then it will be difficult to find it all through this mathematical knowledge. But still, physics has progressed towards ideas and with its advancement, every aspect of our life has changed, but after quantum and general relativity theory, the progress seems to not be reaching an end, and now either it has to keep progressing toward no end or it will reach some end. And whatever the result will be or when it will be, either the results will be self-explanatory and will change everything or it will need some explanations for our understanding, and what good will it be if it required any explanation. From the historical look, it seems like physics has no bottom, and theory after theory it will continue to progress and whenever there are thoughts of any end, it finds new questions to answer and a new start. Besides physics as objective science with the evidential results, still there is disagreement among scientists about many theories and the wonder is how could there be any disagreement about it when the claim is supposedly true only? The answer is in historical understanding: after classical physics, now it is the modern era of physics and maybe there will be another era waiting for scientists. Another reason is that now they say a theory is good for the time until it finds a better replacement and then again and again. If this process keeps moving forward like this then there seems to be no end to this discipline.

With this, one could say that maybe mathematics has no answer to all the statements and physics is only advancing in mechanical aspects, and failing to answer any

fundamental question, rather its theories keep changing with new advancements that only the hopeful can see any future in these disciplines. As they say with each discovery, we are getting closer, and sooner or later we will reach toward answers we are seeking from these. Besides physics, biology, mathematics, philosophy, and other interdisciplinary mergers, we are seeking new realities and this progress is the way forward; eventually this merger and new tech will help us to reach the right or final questions and answers. Till then, our whole knowledge structure and its understanding are based upon different processes, which could be rationalization, scientific method, theology, logical reasoning, sense-making, and now technological understanding. Now any one of these processes is the way to reach some conclusion, and as long as those conclusions lack evidence and have a skeptical understanding, each conclusion will be subjective in its essence. Because, for reaching certainty and for objectified knowledge, evidence has to start and conclude everything, otherwise regardless of higher probability, each answer will be incomplete and cannot take us to where all of our knowledge is meant to be.

Underlying Assumptions

Going back to the idea of Thales of Miletus, that nature developed from one source, then many philosophical ideas from the time of the Greeks, including Plato and Aristotle. As good and convincing as their philosophical approach is, if we go deeper into their rational and logical premises, there are certain assumptions behind each conclusion. Plato's whole process of rationalization and its developed conclusion from this process builds upon certain assumptions. Then Aristotle's idea of the first cause is all assumption and nothing else. Moving forward from that era toward theology, its approach is to believe in it just by assumption, and this belief alone is equal to all proofs. Then moving toward sciences, now we are seeking proof and evidence is the basis of everything, so we must conclude based upon certain proof. But Newton's ideas which were supposed to be evidentially replaced with new ideas of Einstein, now we have general relativity and with certain mathematical constants, the idea is overwhelmingly approved to be the right one, but for testing it completely, we still lack the equipment. Still, it's not all lost, we have tested it upon certain parameters, and this theory works, but to have any conclusive results like a particular one; from how planet movements works to a generalization about how the universe works, the answer is, we are not there yet, as we still need better equipment to reach those conclusions. Besides, they say as long as gravity and quantum don't fit together the conclusion is out of reach

and there are numerous other theories to conclude; we have to hope that any ultimate answer doesn't get replaced by any other better one, and then again.

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EVIDENCE

To Know and Have It All?

The reality is; there is something which exist but what that something is; remains a question. Either because we are not capable to reveal it yet or because with time and movement it changes itself and has no truth in it. But what's the reason for its existence without having or revealing any truth, that's the evidence we need to find.

As with existence we desire to know how it begin and what was beyond it and how and why it all happens. And if we can't know it without believing or assuming or if there is no final answer to these questions then one assumption is; everything happens accidentally and have no purpose behind it. And we could have any meaning based upon our individual senses or reasons and live very well with it. But if there is no one end purpose for everything then no matter how we choose to live, the whole process of existence becomes tragic.

Each one could hate any limitation in freedom, in having, and in the knowledge that's why nothing is good enough; we must know and have it all. And if there is no evidence, then without assumptions we must find it. As to know and have it all is about individuality because each one has the right not to live under the mercy of anyone with more power. So, for freedom and protection, one desires to know and have it all, but the questions remain.

What To and How To Know?

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